

Department of Historic Resources
Reconnaissance Level Survey

Accomack

DHR Id#: 001-0027-0020

Resource Identification

Property Name(s): WFF # D-012E - Sewage Treatment Plant Sludge
Digestion Tank {Historic}
Property Date: 1944
Address(s): Reeder Road {Current}
County/Independent City: Accomack
Vicinity of: Chincoteague
State, Zip: Virginia 23337
USGS Quad Name: CHINCOTEAGUE WEST
Surrounding area: Rural

National Register Eligibility Status
Property is Historic (50 years or older)

Resource Description

Ownership Status: Public - Federal
Acreage: 0.5

Primary Resource Exterior Component Description:

<u>Component</u>	<u>Comp Type/Form</u>	<u>Material</u>	<u>Material Treatment</u>
Chimneys	Chimneys - None		
Foundation	Foundation - Slab	Concrete	Foundation - Poured
Porch	Porch - None		
Structural System	Structural System - Masonry	Concrete	other

Site Description: Located within the Sewage Treatment Plant complex, on the north side of Reeder Road. Set within a rise created by bermed earth around the structure.

WUZIT Count:

<u>No.</u>	<u>Wuzit Types</u>	<u>Historic?</u>
1	Public Works	Historic

NR Resource Count:

Individual Resource Information

WUZIT: Public Works

<u>Est. Date of Construction:</u>	1944 {Owner/site visit}	<u>Accessed?</u>	Yes
<u>Primary Resource?</u>	Yes	<u>Number of Stories:</u>	1.0
<u>Architectural Style:</u>	Other	<u>Condition:</u>	Fair
<u>Interior Plan Type:</u>	Other	<u>Threats to Resource:</u>	Deterioration Neglect

Description: The poured concrete structure is a large cylinder with a small rectangular section placed on the outside edge of the circular tank on the east side. The tank is surrounded by an earth berm; only the top few feet of the exterior wall are exposed. A concrete walkway provides access to the top of the structure from the northwest. The interiors of both sections are open from above. Seven iron pipes project into the rectangular section from the main tank; the pipe openings are visible on the interior of the tank. Iron foot/hand holds provide access down into the rectangular area from above. The interior of the tank also has three plastic pipes located in the center of tank that stand parallel to the sides, equidistant from one another. There are several other pipes located on the interior of the structure in an irregular pattern. The tank does not appear to be in use.

Cemetery Information

Bridge Information

National Register Eligibility Information

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Historic Context(s): Military/Defense

Historic Time Period(s):..... Q- World War I to World War II (1914-1945)

Significance Statement: This structure, built in 1944, is a sludge digestion tank and is part of the sewage treatment plant, one of two such complexes built on Chincoteague Naval Auxiliary Air Station (CNAAS) during World War II. The structure appears on a 1942 drawing entitled "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" by Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan, grouped with other buildings and structures of the "Sewage Plant." It is identified as "D-12E" on the 1950 "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy. The 1953 "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia" prepared by the U.S. Navy identifies the structure as "Sludge Digestion – Sewage Disposal Plant." It is located roughly in the center of the sewage treatment plant, north of the Sludge Drying Bed (001-0027-0019, WFF # D-12D) and south of a second Sludge Digestion Tank (001-0027-0028, WFF # D-99) built in 1954.

The utilitarian structure is a component of a sewage treatment plant constructed at the end of the World War I to II (1917-1945) period. The treatment plant was built to service CNAAS. Established in 1943, CNAAS was used as a training base for Navy aircraft carrier squadrons that would be serving in the Pacific theater of World War II, and to enable Civil Air Patrol to conduct antisubmarine operations off the Atlantic coast. In 1946, the U.S. Navy expanded the mission of CNAAS to include the Naval Air Ordnance Test Station (NAOTS). By 1949, the U.S. Navy discontinued aircraft carrier training and in 1951 CNAAS became a Naval Air Facility, with a primarily research-based mission that corresponded with the mission of NAOTS until the base was closed in 1959. In 1959, the ownership of CNAAS was transferred to the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) and was renamed Wallops Station. Although it does not appear to be in use currently, the structure has essentially retained its original use throughout its history on the base.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Sludge Digestion Tank has been evaluated both as a contributing resource in a historic district and as an individual resource. Issues of significance, integrity, and district boundaries were carefully considered. A proposed district comprising this resource lacks integrity of design, setting, materials, workmanship, feeling and association due to the removal of the majority of buildings from the period of significance (1936 to 1959) and the construction of later buildings. Thus a historic district here is not eligible under Criterion A, B, C, or D.

As an individual resource, it is not eligible for listing in the National Register or the Virginia Landmarks Register under Criterion A, B, C, or D as it is not associated with a significant event or individual at the local, state or national level; it does not embody the distinctive characteristics of a type, period, or method of construction, or represent the work of a master, or possess high artistic values, or represent a significant or distinguishable entity whose components may lack individual distinction; nor does this property have the potential for providing additional information in history or prehistory.

The Sewage Treatment Plant Sludge Digestion Tank retains its integrity of location, design, materials, workmanship, and feeling. Although remaining in its historic location, the structure's integrity of setting and association has been adversely affected by the changes made to the surrounding environment of the base of which it was a part; by 2004, the majority of buildings of this period have been demolished, changing the historic character of the physical environment of the structure's historic context.

Bibliographic Documentation

**Department of Historic Resources
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Reference #: 1

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: Giffels and Valet

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: Giffels and Valet, Engineers and Architects, Detroit, Michigan. "General Plot Plan – Auxiliary Air Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1942.

Reference #: 2

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Map of Navy Auxiliary Air Station and Naval Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1950.

Reference #: 3

Bibliographic RecordType: Map

Author: U.S. Navy

Citation Abbreviation:

Notes: "Station Development Map – Naval Auxiliary Air Station, Naval Aviation Ordnance Test Station, Chincoteague, Virginia." 1953.

Ownership Information

Graphic Media Documentation

<i>Medium</i>	<i>Depository ID #</i>	<i>Photo Depository</i>	<i>Date</i>	<i>File Name</i>
35mm B&W	21528	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 14, 16, & 34
35mm B&W	21541	DHR	2004/07/99	Frames 24-27

Cultural Resource Management (CRM) Events

CRM Event # 1,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2004/07/99

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 200 Orchard Ridge Drive, Suite 101
Gaithersburg, MD 20878

CRM Event # 2,

Cultural Resource Management Event: Reconnaissance Survey

Date: 2003/08/08

Organization or Person: URS Group

VDHR Project ID # Associated with Event: .. 2003-0571

CRM Event Notes or Comments: 7101 Wisconsin Avenue, Suite 700
Bethesda, MD 20814